

# 2025 Budget Approval

Board of Directors

January 24, 2025

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**Lake Simcoe Region**  
conservation authority



Member of Conservation Ontario

# Presentation Outline

1. Context for the 2025 Budget Approval
2. Budget Summary from December 20,2024
3. Legislated Requirements
4. Voting on the 2025 Budget
5. Next Steps



# Context for the 2025 Budget Approval

1. The 2025 Budget is within the targets endorsed by the Board of Directors in May 2024; weighted votes required today to formally approve the 2025 Budget
2. Budget Highlights: 2% increase in municipal funding, no new FTEs, reserves at/above board-endorsed levels
3. The 2025 Budget has already been approved by 7 of 10 municipal funding partners
4. There were no formal questions provided by our municipal funding partners during the legislated 30-day Review Period



# Summary: Operating and Capital Budget

Budget	2024 Approved*	2025 Draft Budget	Change
Operating	\$15.0M	\$15.8M	\$0.8M
Capital	<u>12.1M</u>	<u>15.5M</u>	<u>3.4M</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27.1M</b>	<b>\$31.3M</b>	<b>\$4.2M</b>

\*Restated 2024 Budget(approved July 2024 through Staff Report No. 40-24-BOD)



# Summary: 2025 Municipal Funding increasing 2.0%

In 000s	2024 Approved (restated)*	2025 Draft Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)
Region of York	6,071	6,184	113
Region of Durham**	520	530	10
Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury	464	474	10
City of Barrie	1,475	1,506	31
Town of Innisfil	408	421	13
Town of New Tecumseth	46	46	1
Township of Oro-Medonte	95	98	3
Township of Ramara	80	82	2
City of Kawartha Lakes	62	63	1
City of Orillia***	76	78	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,297</b>	<b>9,483</b>	<b>186</b>
			<b>2.00%</b>

\* 2024 Budget includes all Board approved restatements for in-year funding and changes related to LSPP allocation adjustments

\*\* Excludes \$200K for Category 1 Special Benefit funding from Durham Region for Floodplain Mapping

\*\*\* City of Orillia's funding obligation is only for the LSPP portion of the budget

# Summary: 2025 Reserve Activity

	2025 Opening Balance*	2025 Transfers	2025 Draws	Projected Ending Balance
Rate Stabilization**	\$3,967	\$818	(\$639)	\$4,146
Asset Management	2,376	304	(344)	2,336
Working Capital	306	-	(292)	14
Restricted	<u>1,709</u>	<u>133</u>	=	<u>1,842</u>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$8,358</b>	<b>\$1,255</b>	<b>(\$1,275)</b>	<b>\$8,338</b>

\* Estimated Opening Balance for January 1, 2025

\*\* does not include draw approved for New Nature Centre (expected in 2026)



# Legislated Requirements for Budget Approval

1. Bill 229 requires 3 separate, recorded votes:
  - a. Category 1 (Mandatory Programs)
  - b. Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (Mandatory Program)
  - c. Total Overall Budget
2. Use of Weighted Voting is required to ensure no municipal voting exceeds 50% of total votes
3. Requirement to provide a 30-day review period for Funding Municipalities has been met



# Weighted Voting on the 2025 Budget

Municipality	Category 1 Weighted Vote %	LSPP Weighted Vote %
Region of York	50.00%	50.00%
Region of Durham	8.28%	7.53%
Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury	7.54%	6.45%
City of Barrie	23.60%	21.26%
Town of Innisfil	6.64%	5.86%
Town of New Tecumseth	0.69%	0.73%
Township of Oro-Medonte	1.43%	1.63%
Township of Ramara	1.31%	1.11%
City of Kawartha Lakes	0.50%	1.88%
City of Orillia*	N/A	3.56%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* City of Orillia's funding obligation is only for the LSPP portion of the budget



# Looking Ahead

1. Final votes on the 2025 Budget are required today
2. Monitor remaining 2025 Budget approvals at our municipal funding partners
3. 2025 Levy letters will be prepared and circulated to all funding municipalities
4. Budget Companion document is under development, with release expected later in Q1 2025
5. Start to focus on 2026 Budget preparation



# Questions?

# 2025 Annual Priorities

1. Commence construction of the new Nature Centre at Scanlon Creek
2. Advance work on Lake Simcoe Conservation Preserve \*
3. Continue critical lake ecology research
4. Develop an Indigenous relations framework \*
5. Multi-year Talent Management Strategy

\* Indicates direct 2025 investment (from reserves)

# 2025 Annual Priorities

6. Corporate Re-branding \*
7. Flood Forecasting, Warning & Low Water program audit
8. Conservation Authority Advocacy \*
9. Finalize Watershed Indicators
10. Digital Strategy – Internal Business Portal \*

\* Indicates direct 2025 investment (from reserves)